

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

1. – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A preportioning bag used in food operations where a bulk food supply is divided into portions of smaller size, individual portions are located in a bag, and the bag is stored for use at a later date, comprising:

- a. a front wall;
- b. a back wall;
- c. said front wall and back wall joined so that a main body having closed side and bottom edges and an open top is defined;
- d. at least one vent formed in said main body, said at least one vent comprising at least one semi-circular slit wherein the semi-circular slit is adapted to remain substantially closed during freezing;
- e. a closure for the open top of the bag; and
- f. said front and back walls constructed of a material that will withstand freezing and heating with said at least one vent permitting heat to escape when a food portion is heated in the bag; wherein a central plastic strip is connected to the main body by a perforated line.

12. (Original) The preportioning bag of claim 11 wherein the central plastic strip includes an opening adapted to receive a peg of a saddle structure.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system used in food operations where a bulk food supply is divided into portions of smaller size, individual portions are located in a bag, and the bag is stored for use at a later date, comprising:

- a. a plurality of preportioning bags, each bag including:
  - i) a front wall;
  - ii) a back wall;
  - iii) said front wall and back wall joined so that a main body having closed side and bottom edges and an open top is defined;
  - iv) at least one vent formed in said main body, said at least one vent comprising at least one semi-circular slit; wherein the semi-circular slit is adapted to remain substantially closed during freezing;
  - v) a closure for the open top of the bag; and
  - vi) said front and back walls constructed of a material that will withstand freezing and heating with said at least one vent permitting heat to escape when a food portion is heated in the bag; and
- b. a saddle structure supporting the plurality of preportioning bags;
- c. a central plastic strip to which the plurality of preportioning bags are joined by perforated lines, said central plastic strip resting on the saddle structure so that the preportioning bags are mounted thereon.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the saddle structure includes a peg and the central plastic strip includes an opening that engages the peg of the saddle structure.

16. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The preportioning bag of claim 11 wherein the main body excludes vents other than slits.

22. (New) The preportioning bag of claim 14 wherein the main body excludes vents other than slits.